ISSN: 0042-9791

WRL News

Number 220 | The War Resisters League | September-October 1980

Anti-Draft Actions Disrupt Registration

Picket line outside General Post Office in New York City. Photo by Grace Hedemann

Preliminary Figures Indicate High Non-registration

By Merriel Fish

An unusual (for summer months) flurry of movement activity blossomed at Post Offices around the country July 21 through August 1. Actions which took the form of leafletting, vigiling, picketing, sitting-in, and rallying encouraged young men to think before registering, and to seek support if they chose not to register.

Registration figures have not been released by the Government, yet. However it appears that registration has been far from a dazzling success for the Selective Service System, particularly among urban minority groups, where community organizers suspect that large numbers of young men simply did not register. Barry Lynn of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft estimated the number of nonregistrants at 500,000 (12%) and the *Boston Globe's* estimates were as high as 1,000,000 (25%). Whatever the actual figures turn out to be, they should exceed the Selective Service System's pre-registration estimate of 2%.

From Hawaii to New Jersey and San Francisco to Chicago, WRL members joined in actions to "actively counsel, aid, abet and support all youth who are determined to resist the draft, and take such actions as may encourage them to resist" and engaged in "nonviolent civil disobedience to disrupt the process of registration" (*War Resisters League Statement on the Draft*).

In New York City, members of the WRL national staff and the New York local protested with several hundred others at the General Post Office. By 9:30 A.M., a large, vocal picket line had formed in front of the General Post Office. As the picket

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People's Convention Challenges Democrats

Thousands Gather to Offer Alternatives

"Too many years of broken promises... Now we will be heard." This was the theme of the People's Convention that occurred as an alternative to the Democratic National Convention in August. The Convention lasted two days, August 8 and 9, and ended with a march through Manhattan and a rally at Madison Square Garden on August 10, the day before the Democratic Convention.

Charlotte St. in the South Bronx is not exactly the garden spot of America. A 10-square-block wasteland of rubble where apartment buildings once stood, it is symbolic of the deterioration of the inner cities. It was to Charlotte Street that Jimmy Carter came in 1977 with promises of aid to rebuild this devastated inner city and it was here that the Coalition for a People's Alternative in 1980 gathered to share experiences, link issues and lay the groundwork for a social change action program for the 1980s.

The strength of the Convention and the march and rally was in its diversity. Over 1500 delegates came together representing such broad concerns within the movement as labor, Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, environmentalists, tenants, women, lesbian & gay, peace, draft and anti-nuke issues.

On Friday, the first day of the Convention, people came together in issue workshops for discussion and networking among those doing similar work. Saturday was spent on panel discussions linking issues and a plenary session that revised and accepted the Unity Statement, the "Declaration of Charlotte Street;" which had been proposed and discussed at the workshops over the two days.

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Local Activity

New WRL Locals commemorate Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days

The newly formed WRL chapter in Rochester, NY helped plan and participated in a vigil that took place between 8:15 A.M. August 6 and 11:02 A.M. August 9, the times of the two bomb droppings. The vigil took place at two churches and the Friends Meeting house and went continuously. On the first day of the vigil, Hiroshima day, we marched to the center of town and leafletted passers-by, and later that night we went to the Rochester Zen Center where several chanting services were performed to commemorate the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On the morning of the second day we welcomed children and parents to share in our vigil and a peace program for children took place. We were featured in the local media each of the three days and many people joined us in our vigil after reading about us or seeing us on TV. Rochester WRL plans to make this vigil a yearly event.

Two members of Rochester WRL drove the hundred miles to Griffiss Air Force Base to participate in a vigil there on Sunday, August 10. This vigil was coordinated by the AFSC and the Cruise Control Action Project. Griffiss will be the first site of the deployment of the Air Launched Cruise Missile in October of this year. The War Resisters League is a co-sponsor of the Cruise Control Action Project. The office of the Cruise Control Action Project is in the AFSC office, 821 Euclid Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210. **—Steve Pink**

In commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Monmouth County WRL leafletted the Saint James Roman Catholic Church on August 3, 1980. The leaflet was a co-operative effort and the central theme was "Everyone values human life—Thou Shalt not Kill." Hundreds of Sunday church goers were open minded enough to read and think about the message which was contained within. Attempts were made to reach the pastor of the parish in order to suggest that the sermon of the day include at least a mention of the atrocities attributed to these nuclear devices.

Other parishes and churches were contacted. Some were sympathetic while others were not. In some cases, the priests/reverends were not receptive to the idea of leafletting but suggesting that we join their churches Social Action Committee in order to better inform the congregation of our views and the connections between the draft registration and war itself. On August 10, the Monmouth County WRL joined a number of Social Action Committees and took up the issues with the members of the congregation that chose to attend.

—Jozef Boniakowski

A Flower Blooms in St. Gerard

WRI Council Plans Strategy for the Future

By Craig Simpson

While most American nonviolent activists were sitting in front of doors to their local post offices or leafletting and advising people on the new registration in Mid-July, I was among 60 people from countries around the world hashing out strategies for the international movement of pacifist and anti-military activists in a small Catholic town of St. Gerard in southern Belgium. The gathering which involved no sitting in front of doors or leafletting was the annual meeting of the Council of the War Resisters' International and was my last after three years as representative of the War Resisters League in the US. I have worked with the WRI for many years as representative, delegate to the triennial and intern at the international office and this was perhaps the best council meeting I have attended.

WRI is now getting rather old. It was founded in 1921 and has tried to be a forum and meeting place for pacifists through the years. At times in its history it has had more involvement and better representation of the anti-military movement around the world, it has has also had worse times. At times it has had more participation from third world groups but now it is mostly a West European and American movement. Here, though, is one of the few places we could share information, analysis, and strategies on disarmament, conscription, conscientious objection and nonviolent action against the world's military machine. Looking around the room I felt comfortable with people attending as part of that movement. Erik van Thienen in the Flemish section of the WRI is a central figure in the campaign against the cruise missile in Belgium. Mabel Canada is a street activist and organizer in the Basque section of Spain and is organizing against repression and the military. Jean Fabre spent six months in prison in the past year for resistance to the French military. Ulf Norenius from the Swedish SPAAS (the oldest peace organization in the world) is a key organizer in the movement against military camp expansion in his country.

Longer term WRI council members helped keep the perspective and vision of the WRI including Cobi Molenaar an older Dutch woman who hid Jews in a small space above her bed during the Nazi occupation while distributing a pacifist newsletter. Pietro Pinna was the first imprisoned conscientious objector in Italy and is still a prominent and active member of the nonviolent movement in that country. Jean van Lierde (infamous wheeler-dealer of the Belgium movement) was once a workers organizer and a secretary of Lamumba in the Belgian Congo, and Hein van Wijk was put in a concentration camp in World War II for his pacifist beliefs in Holland during that period.

The discussion this year was mostly on strategy. This had been ignored for many years because of problems with finances, internal disunity, and staff problems. We had more thorough discussions of strategies of disarmament, for example, than we have had for many years. The basic difference was over the strategy of unilateral disarmament vs. transarmament. Unilateral disarmament demands each country to disarm without waiting for other countries to move. Transarmament is a gradual approach that countries begin with others to move into a program of peace conversion and civilian nonviolent defense.

Another important discussion was on conscientious objection and resistance to conscription. Each section gave an update and their perspective of their organizations work. An important weekend conference in the Spring in French Catalonia will discuss these strategies more specifically.

The WRI expansion is now more realistic. After years of financial problems in Belgium, WRI has now moved to London with a small, but very nice, office in a working class district of that city. Finances are getting better and maybe in a few years we can have more stable organizing in the third world. We talked a lot about this during the week and made some positive and workable suggestions to supporting anti-militarism in the third world.

Bernadette Ridard reported on the organizing around women in the military which was a conference held in the end of July in Scotland. Very important organizing has happened around this aspect of militarism which is now a major thrust for NATO and the armies of the world.

Finally, the personal contact at these councils are so important for local organizers like myself. It was encouraging to meet with people talking to unions on peace conversion, people working against the cruise missile deployment in Europe, people working with farmers to oppose military facilities, people selling papers on nonviolence in the streets and distributing leaflets on arms bazaars. We have much to learn from the organizers and sections of the WRI and, if you think about it, only with them can we make our actions at the post offices and weapons facilities have a world wide impact. Peace will bloom from St. Gerard.

Craig Simpson is the WRL representative to the WRI Council.

"Are You Organized?"

A Report on the WRL Training Program

By Michael Mongeau

The Kennedy forces had just lost their bid to open the convention, the bus seemed to be awkwardly weaving its way north through traffic, and I was wondering if two weeks could ever get me organized. When it turned out that everyone had signed up for vegetarian food it seemed like just maybe, things might come together. With a steady diet of training skills, guest speakers, country air, nonviolence and politics, I could sit back and watch my pacifism grow.

Brunella and Nicky, a sibling team from north Jersey, had gone to the not-so Democratic convention; Ricky from Mass. was into Seabrook and food coops; Miriam our lone New Yorker had a distaste for Shoreham; Neal from Orlando and Michael from St. Louis and Nick from New Orleans and Dave from Santa Barbara all were organizing against the draft; Cathy our local from western Mass. had just returned from the Black Hills; Brian from Ohio could attack almost any institution; Lynn from Chicago lived in a Catholic Worker house; Patty from Boston organized around community issues; Ben from northern Michigan seemed to know all the quotations, facts, and figures; Stephen was returning to New Mexico to radicalize liberal arts; and I unexpectantly found myself the senior member of our bunch.

Some of us thrived on the nitty-gritty. "How many cross-references do you use on your media list?" or "Why are there seven different forms of printing each with specific application?" Many of us wondered hard on our politics. "Can feminism really be compatible with Marxist analysis?" or "Is the Middle East really the threshing ground of global tension?" All *noted* the power of music. "If I can't dance then I don't want to be in your revolution!" and "There is a little witch in every one of us." I think we all had many new windows opened. "You mean men get hassled sexually too?" or "How is the draft only *one* part of the struggle against militarism?"

As our bunch grew together and its incredible schedule moved along (43 workshops, 33 collective meals, 1000's of dirty dishes, and a [make-] shift to New York) it became obvious to me that there is magic in the movement and IT is us folks; you and you and you and me. In traditionally organized anarchistic fashion I will try to share the people who wove their magic—knowing full well that such a description is always possible, yet always impossible.

Traprock Peace Center turned over its entire facilities while James O'Barr tenderly reminded us to respect the space (inner or outer?) of those who lived there. Meg Gage found time to share peace-education, her perspective of feminism, a public referendum on disarmament, and a commitment to peace-change that barely could be contained in 24-hour days. Randy Kehler led a workshop from the back of a pick-up truck and it seemed like all of Franklin County was in a conspiracy. Tom MacLean quietly worked on the Yellow House. Wally Nelson reflected, "Nonviolence is the constant awareness of dignity and humanity of oneself and others..." and for a moment we all mirrored his wonder. Juanita Nelson did "make our lives sweeta" while simply living her discipline of thoughts and action in nonviolent consistency. And certainly a hill named after John Woolman should facilitate consideration of tax-resistance and home-spun campaigns and civil disobedience.

Western Mass. contributed Sam Bowles whose workshop on socialism renamed democracy. Al Giordano rocked us with his-story of the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance. And a weather tower in Montague signaled a witness to love and joy in a nuclear-free life.

WRL, of course, made the difference—somewhere between rhetoric and reality—planning for and appealing us into listening and questioning and deciding and doing. William Douthard made me laugh—next time my face is the only white among black I will laugh too. Joanne Sheehan was simply amazing, "Holy Shit, nonviolent coercion stops RAPE!" Igal Roodenko was Igal Roodenko, may he continue to be "lucky" and "get lost in the back streets of life." New York brought us the staff, except for one presidential candidate. George Houser of the American Committee on Africa spoke of armed struggles of liberation, which still perplexes *my* desire to not support war of any kind. Brooklyn opened its homes. WIN Magazine *will* stay solvent. Wall Street watched and listened to us speak/dance/role play about WAR preparation and building PEACE today, not waiting for tomorrow. It was real fun and even the cops were a little disappointed to see us leave.

There were two more organizers in this bunch. Grace and Ed Hedemann workshopped and struggled and laughed and remained silent. Their preparation often went unnoticed / good planning seems so obvious. Their discipline was relentless / so many workshops and so little time. Their nonviolence was active / means and ends are inseparable.

Members of the training program performing street theater on Wall Street to capture attention of crowd. *Photo by Grace Hedemann.*

Michael Mongeau is on staff of the Friends Peace Committee in Philadelphia.

Carter Opts for First Strike

An Interview with Daniel Ellsberg on Presidential Directive 59

By Robert Ellsberg

Recent news leaks, later confirmed by the administration, have revealed that President Carter has issued a new, secret statement of strategic nuclear policy, Presidential Directive 59. The new policy emphasizes the need for advanced war-fighting command and control capability and gives a priority to the targetting of U.S. missiles at Soviet military and political centers. This "counterforce" strategy will ostensibly increase our flexibility in response to Soviet attack, allowing us to consider limited strategic war as a realistic option. Daniel Ellsberg began his career as an analyst for the Defense department, evaluating nuclear war plans and problems of command and control. Since the end of the Vietnam war he has devoted his efforts to the disarmament movement, and has been arrested numerous times at protests at the Pentagon, the Rocky Flats weapons plant in Colorado and the Livermore Research Lab in California. The following is excerpted from his comments on Presidential Directive 59.

Very little has leaked out as far as the actual contents of Presidential Directive 59 and most of what has been written is clearly based on ignorance or mistaken inference as to what the actual contents are. The administration has emphasized that this represents very little change in our nuclear policy and this is almost certainly true as far as the actual plans for nuclear war are concerned. The impression that there has been a sudden change in targeting priority almost certainly bears no relation to reality.

Where there has been a very sharp change—given what appears to be a deliberate leak by the administration—is in what is called "declaratory policy," that is, the official, public description of what our policy actually is. Declaratory policy need have no resemblance to the actual policy, and that has been the case for the last ten years, at least. The impression that has been encouraged, that our plans called for hitting primarily cities or non-military targets in the event of war with the Soviet Union, has never had any relation to the actual planning at all. That should be obvious from the fact that there are some 200 cities in the Soviet Union with a population over 100,000 and we have bought over 10,000 strategic weapons. That doesn't reflect an over supply with respect to the cities; it reflects the truth that only a small fraction of our strategic stockpile has ever been intended for cities.

We are now admitting that the basic function of our strategic nuclear forces is the destruction of enemy military forces. This has always been true, though it has not always been admitted. This in turn has the effect and intended purpose of legitimizing new weapons systems like the Trident II, MX, and cruise missiles, as well as enhanced command and control systems which increase our ability to hit difficult, hardened or mobile military targets. It improves the case for building these tremendously expensive systems, relative to the earlier declaratory policy which implied that our primary objective was retaliation to an attack on us, or the deterrence of such an attack. The administration has to admit that we intend to target hardened military targets in order to explain convincingly why we need the MX missile.

Our official policy is now publicly revealed as a countermilitary strategy, and of course that means you need enormous numbers of warheads since there is just no limit to the number of military targets you could propose to destroy. Moreover, as the Soviets continue to add to those targets, our weapons requirements also continue to increase.

This is, of course, an ominous development—not only in its effects on the arms race; we're talking about vast expenditures of a kind never seen since our investment in the Minuteman missiles in the early sixties. To my mind, what is even more ominous is that it represents the first time any president has given official public endorsement to the notion of first strike—or, as they euphemistically put it, "military targeting."

Why do you say this is a first strike policy?

If you read the statements carefully, such as Harold Brown's speech at Newport, you find that he is saying we need our strategic military forces to deter a range of threats including conventional military aggression in NATO and elsewhere. To say that is to say first strike by the United States, or to speak in more limited theater terms, first use of tactical nuclear weapons supported by the threat of this new concept—"limited strategic retaliation," which is, you might say, a small first strike. These are the possibilities he's referring to when he says that our strategic forces must be relevant to the deterrence of a conventional military attack.

Well, you might say, this is just one of the possibilities in a range of possible threats. Yes, but it is *the* possibility that has some real chance of occurring. The other possibilities, namely Soviet nuclear attacks, have realism only in terms of a response to a very large conflict already going on, probably a response to the use of nuclear weapons against themselves or their allies.

The word "deterrence," of course, is used deliberately to create a certain amount of ambiguity, to "keep the public confused," as Eisenhower said in reference to the effort to obscure the distinction between atomic and thermonuclear weapons, back in the fifties. To deter a surprise attack on the United States by the Soviet Union requires one kind of capability. To deter other kinds of attacks, especially retaliatory ones, or to control escalation, requires another kind of deterrence capability. The essence of this is that we have to deter many things, not just nuclear attack. In a sense, what we call deterrence is really the threat of initiating nuclear war.

What do you infer from the fact that both Carter and Brown have emphasized the priority of hitting command and control centers as part of a limited exchange?

This is either the heart of sheer insanity or it reveals that this is part of a first strike capability. Because if the premise of this is the desire to keep an exchange limited then the command and control centers are the precise targets you must preserve. The only circumstance under which you'd want to destroy these targets is when you are launching an all-out first strike and when you have the highest confidence that you will be able to hit everything; you will have no desire to induce them to hold anything back.

Why do you think this policy has been leaked?

I think the reason it's coming out is that Reagan has been pressing this as the way to go, and of course it is the way to go if you're concerned with preserving the nuclear threat. The president has called for all these new weapons systems, but after all, he has been beat over the head by the Republicans for having "delayed" them in the past. The Republicans are suggesting that he isn't really committed enough to these programs and that he's not likely to stick

with them. The critical question is which one of the candidates can be counted on to carry through with the systems each has espoused. I don't think we can assume that the public cares all that much about it. I believe the more important audience is that particularly interested group—manufacturers, bankers, cold warriors, and campaign contributors, who are looking at these two candidates to decide which is more likely to carry out the program of buying all these weapons. Now, one of them, Reagan, has all along been saying that we should be able to threaten first use, we should use nuclear weapons where necessary, we should be mainly targeting military targets. That makes his program a little more reliable because he's presenting a clear rationale to the public for this spending. Now, the other candidate, Carter, says he's for all of this but until the present he hasn't really come forward and given a good reason for why he's for it. Well, he's still not giving what you'd call a good reason. He's raising all sorts of unlikely possibilities in terms of Soviet threats. And he's not willing to talk about the real arguments—because they would scare the public—which are that his policy is intended to make it somewhat safer for us to control escalation that might arise from our actually initiating nuclear war in a very limited way in the third world—that is to say, our introduction of nuclear weapons into a conventional conflict in the third world.

Robert Ellsberg is on the Executive Committee.

1981 Peace Calendar Available

When You Put Fire to the World... this is the theme of the 1981 Peace Calendar and Appointment Book now available from the War Resisters League. Our 1981 Calendar combines forceful statements and wonderfully evocative graphics from the *Bread and Puppet Theater* to affirm our commitment to the ecology of peace. The calendar features an introduction by Dr. Helen Caldicott, a foreword by Scott Bates and an appreciation of *Bread and Puppet Theater* by Grace Paley. More than a handy weekly diary, the WRL calendar is a document of action on behalf of the world as we would have it—as it must be for us to survive.

The calendar has 128 pages and is wirebound for convenient opening. The date pages can be removed, leaving a bound volume for your permanent library.

This handsome and informative calendar is ideal as an inexpensive gift. Order today!

$4.50 each, four for $17.

Women and Militarism Conference

By Vicki Rovere

Last summer at the War Resisters' International Trienniel Conference in Denmark, a group of English women announced plans for an international women's conference on militarism. The women who would be asked to come were those who were already working in their own countries on issues of women and militarism. "I want to come," I said "but I haven't done any work in that area. I'll have to go home and do some."

It wasn't a hard field to get into this past year—Carter played right into my hands. I did some speaking on registration, the draft and the military, and worked on a few leaflets. I sat in at the Pentagon, too, but I wasn't sure whether that counted. The seven other women attending from the States were very enthusiastic; several wrote to all the others, asking if we could get together to meet before we flew to Europe. Two of the participants were from California, the others from the eastern seaboard, Vermont to D.C.

The geneology of this conference is as follows: In 1975 both the WRI and IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation) agreed to sponsor a meeting for pacifist women. Opposition of people to a single-sex conference had to be overcome. The International Gathering for Women in the Nonviolent Movement was held in France the summer of 1976, having been organized by women staff members of the two sponsoring groups plus a handful each of English and Germans, a Norwegian, a French and a Dutch woman. After the summer a Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group was formed in England by women who had planned and attended the Gathering. An International Feminism and Nonviolence Newsletter has been operating out of Manchester for two years, with issues of militarism appearing frequently. It was this same group, with additional foreign partcipation, who organized the Women and Militarism Conference.

Although the '76 Gathering was generally considered a success, one of the problems with it had been that the people attending had been at widely differing levels of political development: some women working in peace groups did not consider themselves feminists, and some feminists were interested in nonviolence but didn't know much about it. To forestall the same complication, it was specified this time that women should be doing antimilitarist work already—no interested spectators, please!

About 55 women showed up in Scotland, all ready to work hard. Surprisingly, only nine participants of the '76 Gathering were among them.

As with almost every international meeting I've attended, things got off to a rocky start. People aren't used to having to wait for every sentence to be translated twice—it got frustrating. And, as usual, not enough time was taken for introductions, for people to feel connected to each other before they got down to work. Additionally, a lot of people came with very high expectations for what the conference would accomplish and began to worry that it might not get done.

It took a couple of days, and some tears shed, before all this got worked out (and meanwhile, the work in workshops was still going on), but after that things really started to come together. Groups decided on a project or statement and continued meeting, from session to session, until the goal had been accomplished.

Usually one of the best parts of any conference is the people you meet and the contacts you make for further communication. No exception here. Germany and the US both are experiencing public discussion about drafting women, but the variety of antimilitarist work throughout Europe is impressive. Some major concerns are conscientious objection and total resistance, arms sales to the Third World, and the NATO arms build-up in Europe.

Some workshops did not aim to be immediately productive: we shared our experiences and our feelings about the work we were doing, e.g., how to do outreach to feminists or to raise the consciousness of the general population. One group I joined was "Working with men, or with women who won't work with men." It turned out most of us did work in mixed groups, sometimes heavily outnumbered by men. Some of them were easy to work with; many weren't. We spoke of the frustrations and challenges of our work, and as the afternoon sun faded, we tightened our circle and snuggled together for warmth, glad to be together with women at least for a little while.

Vicki Rovere is an organizer with the New York City WRL Local.

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continued through the morning, many participants, including WRL staff member David McReynolds, stepped up to the open microphone to speak out about such things as the present economic draft which now inflicts injustice on low-income groups, Carter's need for draft registration to help ensure his re-election in November, the absurdity of drafting our young men to fight for the interests of multinational corporations, and the increased possibilities for U.S. military intervention in a Latin American "crisis" if our armed forces are expanded by a peacetime draft. Draft counselors were also available at several information tables set up by the Coalition Against Conscription outside the Post Office.

Following a 10:30 A.M. press conference, some 50 demonstrators, including WRL staff members Susan Pines and Ed Hedemann, entered the Post Office lobby and conducted a teach-in near the window being used for draft registration. Many outside picketters, joined those inside at 1:30 when the picket ended. This spirited sit-in, with chanting, leafletting and discussion with would-be registrants, continued in front of the registration window until 4 P.M. At this time protestors issued a statement pledging to continue their protest activities and disbanded as registration ended for the day. No arrests were made.

Sitting-in at the registration window. *Photo by Grace Hedemann*

Registrant in conversation with sit-in demonstrators. *Photo by Grace Hedemann.*

Since Post Office officials escorted registrants through the crowd of protestors or to other windows, a few registrations did take place. But protestors reported other young men who agreed to "think it over" and wait at least until the last day of the two-week period to register.

The same evening, the New York Mobilization Against the Draft sponsored a rally on the Upper West Side, attended by some 3,000 people. On July 28th, another demonstration took place at the Manhattenville Post Office, on 125th St. in Harlem. Mobilization for Survival reported that volunteers had signed up to leaflet at 27 other post offices in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx during the registration period.

In other parts of the country, the Oak Park WRL local staffed information tables at the main post office and reported very few registrants. Local members also worked with Chicago CARD and sponsored a press conference given by two public non-registrants. WRL Inland Empire members participated in leafletting, as did those of Monmouth County WRL. The Monmouth County WRL's picket line at the Red Bank Post Office constituted this new local's first action and was considered very fruitful.

WRL members reported intense activity in the San Francisco area, where they participated in leafletting at 23 of the city's 25 post offices all day, every day of the registration period. Also in San Francisco,

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CONVENTION (continued from page 1)

On Sunday morning people gathered on the Upper West Side in contingents representing all of the issues that had been addressed at the Convention. As a car caravan from the South Bronx passed, more than 10,000 people fell in behind in a march that stretched over 15 blocks.

With great spirit, chanting and banners raised the march wound its way past crowded streets through midtown Manhatten to the rally site in front of Madison Square Garden.

"From Watergate to Billygate, we have had it with the parties of war, inflation and repression," said Norma Becker, Chairperson of the WRL to lead off the rally. Other speakers represented local and national issues and attacked the total inability of the Democratic and Republican parties to speak meaningfully to social concerns.

In the next few days, as the Democratic Convention proceeded to its predictable conclusion—the nomination of a candidate who stands for more military preparation, more unemployment and less money for social programs—it was clear that the Coalition for a People's Alternative had organized an important event. A multi-ethnic, multi-issue coalition worked for three days, educating, networking, and acting for a future for us all.

A view of the rally outside Madison Square Garden. *Photo by Karl Bissinger*

WRL Local Groups

NATIONAL OFFICE, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012 (212-228-0450)

REGIONAL OFFICES

WRL/Southeast, 604 West Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701 (919-682-6374).
WRL/West, 85 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 (415-731-1220).

LOCAL OFFICES

Albuquerque WRL, 201 Pine SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505-243-6169).
Detroit WRL, 1542 W. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48208 (313-833-3197).
Direct Action Committee/WRL, 2042 East Virginia, Evansville, IN 47711.
Foothills WRL, 3024 Ross Drive No. A-4, Ft. Collins, CO 80521.
Hawaii WRL/catholic Action, 1918 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808-949-1210).
Inland Empire WRL, 1336 North Wall Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92404 (714-889-3170).
LaCrosse Area WRL, 126 Wentz Hall, U.W. at LaCrosse, LaCrosse, WI 54601 (608-782-2986).
Monmouth County WRL, P.O. Box 131, Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201-774-9419; 747-0566).
Morgantown WRL, 912½ Monogalia Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505 (304-292-9678).
Muncie/Ball State WRL, Box 401 Student Center, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306 (317-289-6710).
New York City WRL, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012
Oak Park WRL, 645 North Taylor, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312-386-0192).
Philadelphia WRL/WTR, 2208 South St., Philadelphia, PA 19146 (215-545-4626).
Rochester WRL, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14607 (716-244-7191; 473-2929).
St. Louis WRL, 4556 A Oakland St., St. Louis, MO 63110 (314-533-2234).
Southern California WRL, 866¼ E. Kensington Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213-629-2998).

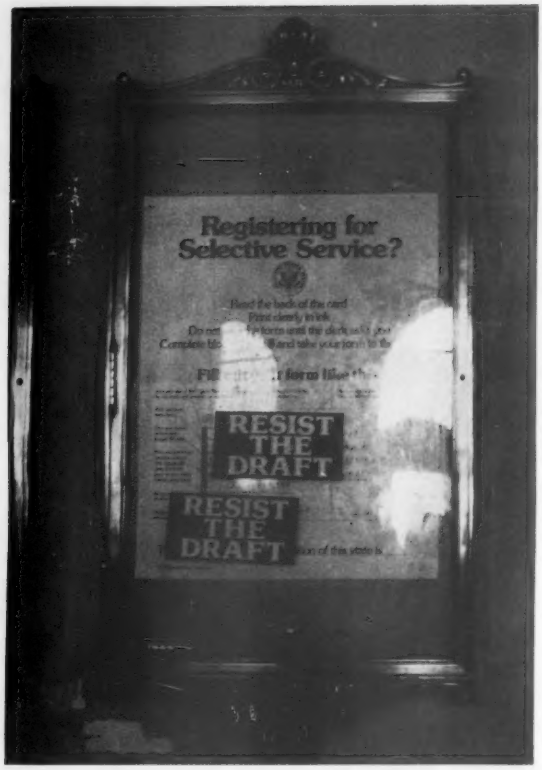
Nominations Solicited for Executive and National Committees

WRL members may nominate candidates for the Executive and National Committees.

There will be 6 openings for the Executive Committee and 6 for the National Committee. Only persons in the New York City area should be nominated for the EC since they must be able to attend monthly meetings in this area. Members outside the New York City area may be nominated for the NC which meets twice a year. The person you nominate for the NC should come from your own area: West, Midwest, South, or East.

Though any WRL member may submit a nomination, nominations by less than five members are subject to the approval of the National Committee as a prerequisite on the ballot. Please submit nominations to the National Office by the November 14 deadline.

DRAFT (continued from page 6)



Stickers inside GPO. *Photo by Grace Hedemann*

during a major demonstration on the opening day of registration, two friends of WRL chained themselves to the main post office. They were originally charged with disturbing the peace, but these charges were later dismissed. A women's contingent from WRL/West, the "Worried Sisters League," organized leafletting and counselling sessions in San Francisco. WRL/West was also instrumental in forming the Northern California Registration/Education Committee which has organized core groups of anti-draft activists throughout the area.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, WRL members participated in a demonstration, picketing and leafletting the main post office, and the Draft Information Service, organized by WRL's Craig Simpson, promoted resistance and distributed information at nightly meetings during the two-week period.

WRL/Southeast reports that Igal Roodenko's spring tour inspired anti-draft activists in dozens of communities throughout the South. In North Carolina, WRL held a Training Workshop for Anti-Draft Organizers and sponsored teach-ins, vigils, demonstrations, and a state-wide rally, receiving excellent media coverage. The FBI and police also covered their demonstration in Chapel Hill very closely. Their constant photographing of the demonstration prompted an enraged outcry from local citizens, two city councilors and the director of Student Legal Services. The mayor eventually ordered the police to destroy the photos and negatives, and announced that in the future police will have to obtain his authorization as well as that of the town manager before photographing legal demonstrations.

Finally, in Honolulu, Hawaii, WRL/catholic Action members participated in a major demonstration at the downtown Honolulu Post Office on July 21st.

At this point it is crucial to remember that registration for the draft is not dead. Another two-week registration period for young men born in 1962 has been announced for January 1981. We must continue to inform young men of the options available to them and urge them to consider resistance to this first stage of military madness.

The week of October 11-18 has been targetted for renewed anti-draft/registration activities. Actions are being organized on the local level throughout the country. We urge all readers to contact local WRL or other anti-draft groups for information on how they can participate in this important week of protest.

Merriel Fish is on the WRL national staff.

WRL Midwest Regional Conference

On the weekend of September 26, 27, and 28, the WRL Midwest region will hold a conference around the theme of "Building a Nonviolent Movement in the 80's. The conference will take place at the St. Anthony School, 704 1st Ave., Evansville, Indiana. Workshops will include issues of the draft, nuclear weapons and nuclear power and movement building. David McReynolds from the national staff of WRL will be a featured speaker.

For more information, write or call: Clark Field, 704 1st Ave., Evansville, IN 47110; (812-423-5209).

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WRL NEWS

Published by the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012, 212-228-0450.

WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 18 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries.

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WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

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